

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Computer program configuration data, which may be in the form of Windows Registry data, is mapped into an XML data representation of that configuration data. This XML data representation is then compared with an XSD data template defining valid configuration parameters. The comparison may be performed by an XML parser. The technique may be used to validate configuration changes during editing, confirm that an application has a valid configuration and/or and to distribute initial configurations or modified configurations with a validation step provided to increase reliability.

[Figure 6]